

Listing of the Claims:

This listing replaces all prior versions and listings of the claims.

1 – 71 (CANCELLED)

72. (Previously presented) A composition comprising a double-stranded, short interfering RNA (siRNA) agent which inhibits expression of an apoptosis-related gene.

73. (Previously presented) A composition comprising a double-stranded, short interfering RNA (siRNA) agent which inhibits expression of a proinflammatory cytokine.

74. (Previously presented) The composition of claim 72, wherein said apoptosis-related gene is an anti-apoptotic gene or a pro-apoptotic gene.

75. (Previously presented) The composition of claim 72, wherein said agent is an RNA which is homologous to an apoptosis-related gene, or a fragment thereof.

76. (Previously presented) The composition of claim 73, wherein said agent is an RNA which is homologous to proinflammatory cytokine, or a fragment thereof.

77. (Previously presented) The composition of claim 76, wherein the cytokine is IL-1 or TNF α , or a fragment thereof.

78. (Previously presented) The composition of claim 74, wherein said pro-apoptotic gene is a Fas pathway molecule, or a fragment thereof.

79. (Previously presented) The composition of claim 78, wherein the Fas pathway molecule is Fas or FasL, or a fragment thereof.

80. (Previously presented) A vector comprising a DNA template which encodes the siRNA of claim 72 or 73.

81. (Previously presented) The vector of claim 80, wherein said vector is a lentiviral vector.

82. (Previously presented) The vector of claim 80, wherein said vector is a retroviral vector.

83. (Previously presented) A cell transfected with the vector of claim 80.

84. (Previously presented) A method of inhibiting apoptosis in a cell comprising administering to the cell a composition of claim 72 which modulates apoptosis-related gene expression, thereby inhibiting apoptosis in a cell.

85. (Previously presented) The method of claim 84, wherein said apoptosis-related gene is a Fas pathway molecule, or a fragment thereof.

86. (Previously presented) The method of claim 85, wherein said Fas pathway molecule is Fas or FasL, or a fragment thereof.

87. (Previously presented) The method of claim 84, wherein said cell is a hepatocyte, a T-cell, a hematopoietic cell, a neural cell, or a malignant cell.

88. (Previously presented) A method of treating or preventing an apoptosis-mediated disease or disorder in a subject comprising administering to said subject a therapeutically or prophylactically effective amount of an siRNA which modulates apoptosis-related gene expression so that expression of said apoptosis-related gene is inhibited.

89. (Previously presented) The method of claim 88, wherein said apoptosis-related gene expression is inhibited.

90. (Previously presented) The method of claim 88, wherein said apoptosis-related gene is a Fas pathway molecule, or a fragment thereof.

91. (Previously presented) The method of claim 90, wherein said Fas pathway molecule is Fas or FasL, or a fragment thereof.

92. (Previously presented) The method of claim 88, wherein the disease or disorder is an immune or inflammatory disease.

93. (Previously presented) The method of claim 92, wherein said immune or inflammatory disease is hepatitis.

94. (Previously presented) The method of claim 88, wherein said disease or condition is cancer.

95. (Previously presented) The method of claim 94, wherein said cancer is a cancer of the liver.

96. (Previously presented) The method of claim 88, wherein said disease or condition is cirrhosis.

97. (Previously presented) The method of claim 88, wherein the disease or condition is transplant rejection.

98. (Previously presented) The method of claim 88, wherein said subject is a human.

99. (Previously presented) The method of claim 88, wherein the disease or disorder is allograft rejection.